

City of Kenmore
Joint Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

Planning Commission Members – In Attendance (the meeting was held onsite and virtually using the Zoom online platform)

Dwight Thompson, Chair
Tracy Banaszynski
David Dorrian
Saad Qadri
Chris Olson
Derek Wyckoff

Excused - Mike Vanderlinde, Vice Chair

Staff

Debbie Bent, Community Development Director – (joining over Zoom)
Todd Hall, Principal Planner

XIV. BUSINESS AGENDA

- B. Planning Commission's Recommendations for Comprehensive Plan Amendments - Economic Development Element.

The Planning Commission gave comments beginning at 7:34PM on the update to the Comprehensive Plan's Economic Development Element.

Todd Hall presented an overview on the Kenmore Comprehensive Plan's Economic Development Element.

Chair Dwight Thompson presented the timeline for the revisions and introduced commissioners and their speaking points.

Commissioner Banaszynski spoke to the interactions of systems such as the environment, health care access, affordable housing, and sustainability as the drivers of future economic growth.

Commissioner Olson spoke to Clean Light Manufacturing.

Commissioner Wyckoff spoke on current and potential commercial use space and how the city can support existing and additionally bring in new business.

Commissioner Dorrian spoke to Kenmore's income strata, Kenmore being a bedroom community and supporting businesses and services that serve those community members.

Chair Thompson encouraged the elements be adopted concurrently so they work together for a stronger city.

Questions/comments:

Councilmember Culver: Do we collect data on businesses that do or don't have living wage jobs?

Staff response: We get data from state or local data sets. We might be able to determine that at some point.

Councilmember Culver: Is there a histogram of NAICS codes and what does Kenmore have that we do not?

You should be proud of this piece. Appreciate how hard the PC is working.

Councilmember Srebniak: Where are the six goals represented in a specific objective?

Staff response: Will need to get back to you.

Councilmember Srebniak: For each of you that spoke where do you feel the Goals & Objectives cover your topic?

-PC response:

Comm. Wyckoff – the whole doc was made proactive for all businesses instead of a specific industry with restructuring words etc.

Comm. Dorrian – there may not be a one-to-one match but there are some new things that line up

Comm. Olson – while clean light is just a piece of the puzzle, overall, it does address some of the key points of the element.

Staff response: We wanted to match it up with what PSRC said and our goals matched theirs.

Councilmember Srebniak: It would be great to measure 2 or 3 most important things and set Goals & Objectives to lean into those.

Councilmember Loutsis: Was there a discussion about general job training or just in regard to green jobs? I feel like that could be a relevant idea to help our residents. Do you feel like there would be a good economic element to add. Maybe “explore opportunities and resources for job training.”

PC response: ED1-3 We could call out job training in that one.

PC response 2: Job training is a tough one. Often low-level service training is easier. The high-level training takes a long time and investment and is harder to implement. We could assist employers to put a system in place that would be the lowest cost and best outcome for workers.

Staff response: Maybe we could add some verbiage to partner with organizations who are already offering these services.

Councilmember Loutsis: Reiterate the thanks for all the work the PC does.

Mayor Herbig: Can we recognize the Burke Gilman Trail as a “Strength” and the incoming Bus Rapid Transit as “Opportunity”?

Councilmember Sasson: Call out the job training model of Black Coffee Northwest as a model for community engagement. Take how can we partner with business to the Kenmore Small group?

Councilmember Culver: Would it be appropriate to talk in the Comp Plan on the history of Lakepointe? What did we learn from the Business Incubator and does that have a place for the Comp Plan?

Staff response: Debbie Bent talked about next steps for the Economic Development Element.

Deputy Mayor O’Cain: I like the emphasis on job training and finding a space to expand skilled labor so that people can work and live in Kenmore.

Deputy Mayor O’Cain: So grateful for the Planning Commission’s dedication and how quality their work is.

Councilmember Marshall: An environmental emphasis in a business-oriented plan is so important.

2. ADJOURNMENT

The discussion was completed at 8:39PM

Shannon Tipple-Leen

Planning Commission

Approved by Planning Commission on: April 2, 2024